



# Patricia Jursik *Update*

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## COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Finance and Audit

Judiciary, Safety and  
General Services

Transportation,  
Public Works,  
and Transit

## County Board Overrides Executive's Veto and Affirms Policy on Economic Stimulus

At a special meeting of the Board on March 31, the Board voted 16-2 to end the County Executive's obstruction to applying for stimulus funding. Our quick action will allow our County to meet an April 8 deadline for applications.

The County Executive originally stated that he would refuse stimulus funds, then that he would seek to use the stimulus for a tax holiday (which is not legally allowed), and now that he will not accept stimulus funds unless they meet his three-point criteria.

However, the County Executive has repeatedly acted in violation of his own stringent criteria. The Executive's first point rejects any funds that require a local match. Yet he has actively sought federal grants for Bus Rapid Transit, highway, and other transportation needs that require local matches. His second point rejects any grants that require a long-term commitment by Milwaukee County, yet he routinely presents bonding proposals.

I take exception with his third point, which states, "Expenditure of requested funds will not obligate Milwaukee County to future operating or maintenance expenses." In my view, that eliminates virtually everything. Roads, bridges, buildings...you name it. We have a variety of needs in Milwaukee County. Almost any capital expenditure will require future maintenance. But, we are already obligated to maintain these assets, so his third point is bogus.

In our March 31 resolution, the Board affirmed, "the County shall apply for all available Stimulus funds in existing program areas eligible for funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (and any reauthorizations) as available to Milwaukee County inclusive of both competitive and formula funding. Staff from all County departments shall execute its charge under this policy, and it shall be strictly the right of the County Board to refuse to accept funding if the County Board determines that it is not in the interest of the County to accept the funding because of identified obligations within each project specification."

As a member of the Task Force on the Economic Stimulus, I seek to work with various departments in order to prepare requests for economic stimulus funds. I hope that the County Executive decides to work with us.

## Keeping Grant Park Safe

Users of Grant Park have formed a park watch due to increased incidents of damage to trees and turf at picnic areas and the golf course. Driving vehicles on the grass and

harming trees is unacceptable and costly. Please **report any destructive activity to the South Milwaukee Police Department at 768-8060.**

Attend the **next Parks Watch meeting:**  
**Tuesday, April 21, 7 p.m., at Grant Park Clubhouse**

The Milwaukee County Sheriff's department and South Milwaukee Police have stepped up their patrols. Together with the Parks department, they have decided that **Grant Park will be gated at 10 p.m. each night.** All vehicles must leave the Park before closing time.

Our parks are as great as we all make them. Together we can make Grant Park a safer, even better place by being active, attentive users!

### **Electricity at Grant Park**

Grant has been without power since the fall. We originally thought that a conduit under Lake Drive needed repair. Now Parks has found that the problem is more extensive. This project is a priority and we anticipate doing work in April to expeditiously restore power.

### **College Avenue Repair**

Although the US Postal Service has delayed the distribution facility project at College Avenue and Pennsylvania/Nicholson in Oak Creek, the County will move forward with work along College from Howell to Pennsylvania/Nicholson. The Airport will proceed with tunnel work as well.

Additionally, we have kept the \$600,000 repaving of College from Pennsylvania/Nicholson to Highway 32 (Chicago/Packard) on our proposed list for stimulus funding. I continue to seek major repair of this deteriorated stretch of highway.

### **Pension Obligation Bonds**

Milwaukee County has an underfunded pension and is required to budget over five years to rectify this. Additionally, we are penalized 8% for the underfunded pension. We have been living on a credit card, and Pension Obligation Bonds (POBs) are a way to consolidate our debts and become responsible by paying off these high penalties.

We have listened to good expert advice with more knowledge of the issue than those interviewed by the local paper. I have explored the issue of doing nothing and the result is much worse. For this reason, I voted with 10 colleagues and the County Executive in favor of issuing POBs.

### **Be Green With the Kelly Center**

Help the Kelly Senior Center on Saturday, April 25, 8am-1pm, by contributing to its **recycling fundraiser**. Bring various metals, computers, appliances, bicycles, lawn mowers, and snow blowers. Stay for a **huge rummage sale** and purchase refreshments or baked goods. Proceeds benefit programming at the Kelly Center. For details or to rent a table at the rummage: 481-9611 [www.ci.cudahy.wi.us/PDFs/Event-Recycle20090425.pdf](http://www.ci.cudahy.wi.us/PDFs/Event-Recycle20090425.pdf)

Read the following calendar for other opportunities on Earth Day! Join cleanups on April 18, 25, or on a day of your choice.

## **College Avenue Park-Ride Detour**

**(Thanks to Supervisor Christopher Larson and Jonathan Brostoff for this information)**

The State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) has begun work on the I-94 North - South corridor reconstruction project. WisDOT has already closed the College Avenue bridge over I-94 until November, limiting access to both the Northeast and Southwest park-ride lots. As a result of this closure and additional construction work that will begin in late May, Milwaukee County Transit System has made significant changes in service on Route 40 (Holt-College Flyer), Route 40U (Holt-College UBUS), and Route 47 (S. 27th Street Flyer).

Route 40 will only serve the Ryan and College Park-Ride Lots. Service to the Holt Park-Ride Lot has been transferred to Route 47. Route 40U will continue to serve the Holt and College Park-Ride Lots, although its routing is detoured as a result of the bridge closure.

Every effort has been made to minimize the inconvenience created by these detours. We encourage riders to check the new schedule for your route as times will be different from those currently in place and to look for updates throughout the construction project. For more updates on the I-94 project, visit [www.plan94.org](http://www.plan94.org).

## **Community Calendar**

### **Thursday -Saturday, April 2-4, 7pm and Saturday April 4, 2pm Cudahy High School Musical: Oklahoma!**

At Cudahy High School (4950 S. Lake Dr., Cudahy). 294-2700

### **Friday, April 3 – “Door County-Style” Fish Boil, 4-7pm**

At St. Matthew’s (9303 S. Chicago Rd., Oak Creek).

### **Saturday, April 4 – Family FREE Day at the Zoo**

All visitors receive free admission. The parking fee remains in effect. Meet some new additions to the golden lion tamarin family! At Milwaukee County Zoo (10001 West Blue Mound Road, Milwaukee). [milwaukeezoo.org](http://milwaukeezoo.org) 256-5466

### **Tuesday, April 7 – Election Day, 7am-8pm**

Contact your City Clerk with any questions about voting: Cudahy 769-2200, Oak Creek 768-6510, South Milwaukee 762-2222, St. Francis 481-2300 x125.

### **Tuesday, April 7 – Poetry Night at Lincoln Elementary, 6:15-7pm**

At 4416 S. Packard Av., Cudahy. 294-2930

### **Thursday, April 9 – Friends of Grant Park meeting, 7pm**

At Grant Park Clubhouse (100 Hawthorne Av., South Milwaukee). Contact 764-0612

### **Saturday, April 11 – Badgerland Striders South Shore Half-Marathon, 8:30am start, 7am registration**

Start at South Shore Park (2900 S. Shore Dr., Milwaukee). Follow the Oak Leaf through 5 County parks to Grant Park. Return along the same route. 614-0750  
[www.badgerlandstriders.org](http://www.badgerlandstriders.org)

### **Saturday, April 11 – Friends of South Milwaukee Library Book Sale, 9am-3pm**

At South Milwaukee Library (1907 10<sup>th</sup> St., South Milwaukee). 768-8195

**Tuesday, April 14 – Friends of Mill Pond meeting, 6:30pm**  
At Grant Park Clubhouse (100 Hawthorne Av., South Milwaukee).

**Wednesday, April 15 – Tax Filing Deadline**

**Saturday, April 18 – Watercourse Cleanup, 8am-Noon**

Bring tall boots if you have them. Friends of Mill Pond and Oak Creek Watercourse Inc. will provide safety vests, bags, water, and vinyl gloves. Meet at Grant Park Beach parking lot (at the furthest east end of Hawthorne Av.). The cleanup will target the area from the beach to North Chicago Avenue. The City will provide lunch to participants at another location at Noon.

**Saturday, April 18 – FREE Kids Fishing Clinics, 9am-3pm**

Hourly (last clinic starts at 2 pm). For youth 15 and younger. Learn about technique, equipment, knots, safety, and fish identification. At Sheridan Park (4800 Lake Dr., Cudahy), Humboldt Park (3000 S. Howell Av.), and several other parks. For groups of 20+ or for more information, please call 263-8614.

**Tuesday, April 21 – Grant Park Watch meeting, 7pm**

At Grant Park Clubhouse (100 Hawthorne Av., South Milwaukee). 764-7262

**Thursday, April 23 – 9:30am Milwaukee County Board Meeting**

At Milwaukee County Courthouse (Room 200, 901 N. 9<sup>th</sup> St., Milwaukee).

**Friday, April 24, and Saturday, April 25 – The Wonder Bread Years with John McGivern** At the South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center (801 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, South Milwaukee, Enter Door #9). Box Office: 766-5049

**Saturday, April 25 – Cudahy Earth Day/Arbor Day Cleanup/Tree Planting**

**8am** Cleanup, meet at City Hall (5050 S. Lake Dr., Cudahy).

**Noon** Ceremony at City Hall. For more information: 234-8115 or contact Joel, [puczylowski@yahoo.com](mailto:puczylowski@yahoo.com)

**Saturday, April 25 – Recycling Fundraiser and Rummage**

At the Kelly Senior Center (see article above for details), 6100 S. Lake Dr., Cudahy. 481-9611

**Saturday and Sunday, April 25-26 – In Celebration of Trees, 10am-4pm**

Special event fee \$1 includes admission to both Boerner Botanical Gardens and Wehr Nature Center. Explore hiking trails with naturalist-guided tours, learn about trees and the emerald ash borer, discover your carbon footprint, and seek advice from UW Extension horticultural educators.

**10am** Bike ride with naturalist, Howard Aprill, through Whitnall Park and the Root River Parkway. Learn about ancient landforms, geography, wildlife, and plants of this special area. Cyclists must provide their own bicycle, water, and safety equipment. \$1 includes admission to “In Celebration of Trees.” Please register by Thursday, April 17, by calling 425-8550.

**Ongoing through June – Community Cleanup Days in St. Francis**

In St. Francis. Contact Debbie at [bikingxfour@tds.net](mailto:bikingxfour@tds.net) for details.